



National
Foreign
Assessment
Center

H.R.

~~Secret~~
NOFORN-NOCONTRACT

Area Briefs

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
JUN 12 1994
DATE: _____

JAN 31 1978

~~Secret~~

← ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX

TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE →

OUTGOING MESSAGE.

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 . # DISSEM BY:

0 NO INDEX

0 RETURN TO PER

0 # FILES #

150

LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 78-001, 3 JANUARY 1978.Y

CHILE: THE CHILEAN PUBLIC WILL RESPOND BY PLEBISCITE

ON 4 JANUARY TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S APPEAL FOR SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF "FOREIGN AGGRESSION" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. DESPITE DISSENT WITHIN THE JUNTA, AND AGAINST THE JUDGMENT OF HIS CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS, PINOCHET IS DETERMINED TO GAMBLE ON THIS "NATIONAL CONSULTATION."

THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXPOSING THE REGIME TO POPULAR JUDGMENT WILL ALMOST SURELY EXCEED WHAT PINOCHET HAD IN MIND WHEN HE SUBMITTED HIS POLITICAL BRAINCHILD. HE EVIDENTLY FORESAW AN EASY PERSONAL VICTORY IN PLAYING ON NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENT AGAINST FOREIGN CRITICISM. HE MAY ALSO HAVE COUNTED ON THE PERVASIVE FEAR THAT HAS DEVELOPED AMONG THE PUBLIC THAT THE MILITARY WILL SOMEHOW KNOW HOW EACH INDIVIDUAL VOTES.

PINOCHET DID NOT ANTICIPATE EITHER THE IMMEDIATE OR LONGER RANGE RISKS IN THIS VENTURE. UNLESS THE VOTE IS OVERWHELMINGLY

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

F 2 IMPDET

ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. TYPE THE WORD ALIGN TO REGISTER HERE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:

☐ NO INDEX

☐ RETURN TO PER

☐ IN FILE #

FAV ORABLE AND THE ELECTION UNQUESTIONABLY **CLEAN**, THE PRESTIGE OF THE REGIME WILL SUFFER AND PINOCHET'S PERSONAL CHANCE TO ENHANCE THE POWER OF THE PRESIDENCY WILL FALTER.

AIR FORCE GENERAL LEIGH STILL REFUSED TO SUPPORT THE PLEBISCITE. WITH THE JUNTA'S DIVISION NOW IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, SOME SHAKEUP IN THE GOVERNING BODY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REQUIRED AFTER THE VOTE IS IN. NO CLEAR MECHANISM EXISTS TO PREVENT THIS SHAKEUP FROM BECOMING ANOTHER EMBARRASSING CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE JUNTA.

A LONGER RANGE RISK ARISES FROM PINOCHET'S SIMPLICITY: KNOWLEDGE THAT THE REGIME DEPENDS ON POPULAR SUPPORT. THE PLEBISCITE IS LIKELY TO CREATE DEMANDS FOR OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF POPULAR WILL. MANY CHILEANS RELIEVE THE PLEBISCITE WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. THE JUNTA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IGNORE THESE EXPECTATIONS WITHOUT FURTHER POLITICAL COST.

150